

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8816

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EGEN, EAGR, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN GRAIN PRODUCTION

REF: SOFIA 1179

1. STATISTICS ON BULGARIA'S 1974 CORN AND WHEAT CROP HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLISHED BUT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM OTHER CEMA COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES THAT BULGARIA IS SEEKING A LOAN (COMMODITIES TO BE REPAID IN 1976 AND 77) OF A TOTAL OF 1.5 MILLION TONS OF WHEAT AND CORN. THIS WOULD LOGICALLY MEAN THERE HAS BEEN A 1.5 MILLION TONS SHORTFALL IN THIS YEAR'S CROP DUE TO DROUGHT AND OTHER UNFAVORABLE CLIMATIC CONDITIONS. IN 1973 WHEAT PRODUCTION STOOD AT 3,249,000 TONS AND CORN AT 2,570,000 TONS MAKING A TOTAL OF 5,819,000 TONS.

2. BOTH THE ROMANIANS AND THE CZECHS FEEL THAT THE BULGARIANS MAY BE EXAGGERATING THEIR SHORTFALL IN ORDER TO GET MORE GRAINS FROM THEIR ALLIES AND ESTIMATE THE SHORTFALL AROUND 1.2 OR 1.3 MILLION TONS. THE ROMANIANS ARE PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE 50,000 TONS, THE CZECHS CLAIMED NOT TO HAVE MADE A DECISION AS YET. GENERAL IMPRESSIONIUS ZHIVKOV ASKED SOVIETS FOR BULK OF SHORTFALL WHEN IN MOSCOW IN OCTOBER. DURING THE PRESENTATION OF THE NEW BUDGET IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE SOVIET UNION

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WAS PROVIDING 500,000 TONS OF FODDER WHETHER THIS IN-

CLUDES WHEAT AND CORN WAS NOT CLEAR.

3. FROM WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GLEAN, THE SHORTFALL HAS BEEN MORE IN THE AREA OF STOCK FEED RATHER THAN FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. WE KNOW FROM THE FRENCH THAT THE BULGARIANS HAVE PURCHASED 20,000 TONS OF MEAT FROM FRANCE AND PERHAPS 12,000 TONS MORE FROM A WEST GERMAN FIRM. IN THIS CONNECTION WE RECALL THAT WHEN HE WAS IN WASHINGTON IN SEPTEMBER, FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE LUKANOV INQUIRED ABOUT CCC CREDITS, APPARENTLY WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC.

HERZ

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## Message Attributes

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